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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1886.

COLONIZATION.

An act of the Legislature of 1884, "to facilitate the acquirement and settlement of homesteads," gave rise to an earnest discussion in the newspapers on the prospects and advantages of increasing the small farming population of the Kingdom. In that discussion there was perhaps nothing said that had not been uttered over and over again in the local press during many years previously. Yet the failing of the flush times of high sugar prices made the matter a more vital one than it ever was before, and the agitation assumed so persistent a tone that men of large stakes in the country became openly interested in the question. Different large landholders announced their readiness to part with large tracts, for certain considerations, to have them devoted to colonization purposes. A company was formed to accept one of these chances, and the organization is to-day alive and seeking the requisite capital, with fair prospects of success, to launch its scheme. During the period, also, the Government then existing was not oblivious of its duties under the act referred to. Mr. Gulick, Minister of the Interior, detailed a portion of the Government Survey to ascertain how much and what kind of public lands there were available for settlement. The report of the detachment showed that only a comparatively small portion of Government lands could be cultivated by settlers of small means. Still, the report was satisfactory in showing the extent and nature of the public domain. Under ordinary methods of colonization a large proportion of those lands are to be regarded as impracticable of turning to account. Yet, in a climate like that of Hawaii, land is worth making extraordinary efforts to subdue to the use of humanity. Therefore, should success crown the large schemes of cultivation of private lands, as there is reason to hope will be the case, much of what is now regarded as utterly useless land belonging to the Government would be largely sought by capitalists.

There is no enterprise, it is safe to say, which has ever been mooted in these Islands of more importance to the permanent welfare of the nation than the colonization scheme now before the public. It is regrettable that people, in some cases likely to be among the first to benefit largely from its success, should affect to treat the scheme in the indifferent, not to say scornful manner that they do. When people say that nothing can come of the project, they exhibited a want of information, both as to what has been done in this country in the reclamation of waste land and as to what is doing at the present moment in other countries in that respect. Enormous outlays are being made in the Australian Colonies and in California to render deserts cultivable by irrigation. Thus Victoria has divided a vast tract into ten districts, and in each year 1,064,384 acres are to be irrigated. The estimated cost is over nineteen million dollars. It was recently stated in the Assembly that the water trusts already existing had raised the value of the land by seven and a half million dollars ($7,500,000), "and had accomplished work in its way unparalleled in the world." The Auckland *Herald* adds the following to a reference made to that great work:—

We cannot say if there be any exaggeration on this point without more exact knowledge of what they have done in the Western United States; but there can be no question that when a single Australian colony is arranging to irrigate a million of acres every year, a wonderful transformation impends for that continent, so much of which is occupied by arid wastes, and even the best portions of which are periodically scourged by drought. South Australia is likewise moving in the same direction as Victoria, and is sinking artesian wells in her deserts. The wells, sunk to an extraordinary depth at the head of Spencer's Gulf, will, it is believed, lead to the reclaiming of much of that horrible desert which was the scene of the dreadful sufferings of Mr. Eyre and his exploring party in 1840. Though little notice abroad is yet attracted to it, this irrigation movement, in which South Africa is sure to imitate Australia, will fit render vast waste spaces on the globe for the use of man, and sites of population in the coming time.

There is more to be said in this connection, but the present article is sufficiently lengthy.

Riotous Chinese.

The 3-masted schooner Sadie F. Caller, which recently arrived from the north, consigned to the Cutting Packing Company, brought down about one hundred Chinese who had been employed in the northern canneries. These Chinamen were riotous on the down trip to this city. They had made comparatively little money during the past season and were consequently enraged against the Chinese agents of the contractors.

Some of them have made as high as $150 or $200, but the majority run far below this, and to as low as $40. The matter was aggravated by a poor season, and the workmen made a good many threats against the boss Chinamen, who are the only ones they know in the contracts. In the case of the Caller's passengers, the foreman was Ah Ling, who was so obnoxious that it was generally believed that he would be killed before reaching San Francisco. Capt. Larsen received an inkling of the matter, and, as he commenced to take on the Chinamen he searched each one and his baggage for weapons. The consequence was the confiscation of a motley assortment of pistols, iron bars and rude knives made from chisels and files and other cannery tools. The first lighter load, numbering about forty, had no sooner been searched than they charged Ling with informing the Captain of the hiding-places of their weapons, and made a demand for his life. Captain Larsen locked the frightened boss up in his cabin, and attempted to parley with the Chinese, but they said if Ling was not given to them they would make a rush and capture him. The captain pulled his pistols, and his crew of ten, backed up by four or five fishermen, hastily armed themselves with marlin-spikes and iron belaying-pins and prepared to give battle. The Chinese also seized anything they could lay their hands on, but hesitated in front of the pistols and, finally wavering, the crew obeyed Larsen, and, with a rush drove them below. Another lighter load was nearly alongside by this time, and all the Chinamen on it were eager to join in the row, but the lighter was kept off some distance until those on board were disposed of. Then they were taken on board one by one and searched, as the others had been. All the way down they were closely watched, and Ling was kept in the cabin. When they landed Ling was spirited away in a hack, after which the implements of war were returned. Another vessel is reported to have had a similar experience.—*S. F. Bulletin.*

At a boarding-house where most of the men are printers, and whose scientific attainments are consequently held in high esteem by the landlady, the earthquake was learnedly and thoroughly discussed at the supper table. One gentleman gave it as his final opinion that earthquakes were demonstrations of pent-up gas. "Nonsense," said another gentleman boarder, "earthquakes were suffered long before gas was invented."—*Chicago Mail.*

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